

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. _____

1 Requesting the Joint Commission on Technology and Science to study the desirability and
2 feasibility of incorporating biological trait information in or on Virginia driver's licenses
3 and special identification cards. Report.

4 WHEREAS, state-issued driver's licenses and special identification cards have become
5 the most generally accepted form of personal identification in the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, emerging technologies make it possible, through the use of magnetic
7 strips, embedded computer chips, printed bar codes, and other means to protect holders of
8 driver's licenses and identification cards from identity theft and thwart use of these documents
9 by terrorists and other criminals; and

10 WHEREAS, the use of these technologies may also have great benefits for the law-
11 enforcement, health, emergency management, and banking communities in verifying identity in
12 a variety of both emergency and everyday situations; and

13 WHEREAS, the issuance of a driver's license or special identification card that utilizes
14 one or more of these technologies to include one or more biological identifying traits of the
15 licensee or cardholder, such as a fingerprint or iris scan, could assist in verifying identity and
16 preventing fraud; and

17 WHEREAS, the capture of biological trait information could be done in such a way as to
18 minimize privacy protection concerns by using the information only to verify identity of the
19 holder of a driver's license or special identification card at a one-to-one level and not creating a
20 database of biological identifying traits of all holders of a driver's license or special
21 identification card; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Joint
23 Commission on Technology and Science be requested to study the desirability and feasibility

of incorporating biological trait information in or on Virginia driver's licenses and special identification cards.

In conducting its study, the Joint Commission on Technology and Science shall identify and evaluate the benefits that could potentially accrue to the Commonwealth and its citizens from use of the various technologies that could be used to include, at the licensee's or cardholder's option, biological trait information in or on Virginia driver's licenses and special identification cards. The Joint Commission on Technology and Science shall consider the costs of equipment required by the various available technologies; the benefits that could be realized by the law-enforcement, health, emergency management, retail sales, and banking communities, and by individual citizens; the degree, if any, that use of such technology might impinge upon individual privacy rights; and such other questions and issues as may appear desirable or necessary to a full, fair, and factual study. The Joint Commission on Technology and Science shall also review the dual role of the Department of Motor Vehicles in issuing personal identification cards as well as certifying qualified drivers in the Commonwealth.

All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Joint Commission on Technology and Science for this study, upon request.

The Joint Commission on Technology and Science shall complete its meetings by November 30, 2005, and shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an executive summary and a report of its findings and recommendations for publication as a House or Senate document. The executive summary and report shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports no later than the first day of the 2006 Regular Session of the General Assembly and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

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